



June 23, 2006

This Week In Correction

A weekly update of events in the Tennessee Department of Correction

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:



Fall Creek Falls State Park was the site of the wardens meeting held this week.

Commissioner Little and staff updated wardens on issues ranging from the smoking ban to use of drug dogs and the impact of rising fuel prices on inmate activities and programs.



Deputy Commissioner Gayle Ray discussed the reorganization of health/mental health services and homeland security.

Assistant Commissioner Cathy Posey gave an update on the budget, commissary vendor issues and resources for program planning and development.



Assistant Commissioners Roland Colson and Jim Cosby addressed communication between Central Office and Institutions.

Wardens also made suggestions on the inmate mail policy requirements. The three-day meeting gave wardens a chance to voice their concerns and praise for TDOC and to come together to share ideas for improving our facilities and programs.

Pictured: Warden Howard Carlton, **NECX**, Deputy Commissioner Gayle Ray, Asst. Commissioner Roland Colson, Warden Virginia Lewis, **STSRCF**, Warden Jewel Steele, **TPFW**, Asst. Commissioner Cathy Posey, Warden David Mills, **MCCX**, Warden Tommy Mills-**NWCX**, Warden Tony Parker-**WTSP**, Warden Wayne Brandon-**TCIP**, Acting Warden Lolie Jones-**WCBC**, Asst. Commissioner Jim Cosby, Warden Reuben Hodge-**MLCC**, Commissioner George Little, Warden Kenneth Locke-**CBCX** and Warden Gil Mathis, **DSNF**.



The wardens and commissioners enjoyed a cook-out, compliments of staff from **STSRCF**.



ANOTHER WARDEN MILLS:



Congratulations to Tommy Mills who has officially been named warden of Northwest Correctional Complex this week.

“It’s a pleasure to promote Tommy Mills to warden, said Commissioner George M. Little. “He is a long-time corrections professional who has come up through the

ranks. I look forward to working with him and the rest of management and staff at **NWCX** and moving forward, said Commissioner Little. Warden Mills has 24 years of experience with TDOC and is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

By the way, Warden Tommy Mills is not related to **MCCX** warden David Mills.

THE AWARD GOES TO...

They cooked throughout the night, but it was worth it.



WTSP'S Relay for Life Team sponsored a barbecue cook-off with teams from **WTSP** and **NWCX**. Terry Kirk, Eugene Watson, Harold Hutcherson, Steve Jones and Gerald Bell-**NWCX** all won awards.



PROJECT EDISON VISITS WTSP: The Project Edison team from the Department of Finance and Administration visited to learn more about prison operations. Wayne Carpenter, Terry Richards and Henry Steward welcomed Sandy Strickland, Lorrain Graham, Nakisha Easley, Don Pierce, Michelle Frazier, Avery Poor and Laura McCarthy. Central Office staff included Diane Moore, Lorraine Rea and Lisa Henson.



RMSI hosted a blood drive for the American Red Cross recently. The event is hosted a couple of times a year.



NECX staff raised \$600.00 for the Karon Wyatt fund. Inmates donated another \$600.00 for the surviving daughter of Kimberly Wyatt.

TCA TRAINING:

This past Sunday, sixty-two (62) new hires reported to the Academy to begin their basic training. Forty-one (41) are correctional officers.

Twenty-nine (29) of our departmental personnel from seven institutions completed basic certification training in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing this week. Dr. Theresa Blakely, a professor of Social Work at Union University in Jackson, was the instructor.

Academy Training Director Sam DiNicola traveled to the Sioux Nation Indian Reservation in South Dakota to train jail and detention facility managers from all over the country. Sam was hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to deliver course work in supervision and leadership skills.

FOLSOM PRISON BLUES:



Dan Strickland, Correctional Program Support Coordinator, Central Office, took this photograph of the main entrance to the old Folsom State Prison in California. Folsom received its first inmates on July 26, 1880 and is still in operation today. The first inmate was a native of Canton, China named Chong Hing. His prison number was #1.

Dan Strickland (far right) recently participated in the National Institute of Corrections training program, Conducting Prison Security Audits, held in Sacramento, California.



The California DOC invited NIC to conduct audits at 3 sites: Folsom State Prison, California State Prison-Sacramento (New Folsom) and their Corrections Medical Facility.

This was the first time an audit team outside of California had assessed any of their facilities. Capt. Leon Dotson, **CBCX**, also attended the training. Dan says, "The CDOC was very gracious and hospitable. The California weather and scenery were beautiful. They really got a big kick out of my Tennessee accent and when I told them that the farthest west I'd ever been was West Memphis, Arkansas."



BEST IN THE WEST:

A team from **NWCX** was named “Best Decorated Campsite” in the annual Relay for Life event held in Lake County. The theme was “Rounding up a cure for cancer”. The event rose over \$29,000 for the American Cancer Society. The NWCX team raised \$5,665.

PROFILES IN CORRECTION: The Untold Story



Angelia Bess, Mental Health Program Specialist II, STSRCF

She calls herself a disillusioned perfectionist. The more clutter the better for Angelia Bess. But don't be confused, this TDOC professional is well in control.

1. Describe your work?

“I work in community substance abuse. I do the critical thinking part of the program. That means working with offenders, helping correct their thinking errors, identifying what is a problem to them and helping them make more responsible thinking choices. It's rewarding, never dull and always challenging.”

2. What makes it rewarding?

“I enjoy being a part of something so important. In the therapeutic community we operate as a team. There are three of us here, there's a reward in being able to do something individually, but it comes out as a team.

3. After leaving TDOC for a while, you decided to come back. Why?

“Once you get prison in your blood, it's hard to let go of it completely.

4. What do you do during your time away?

“I'm on the computer a lot. I love to read, do anything outside. I live on a farm so I have all sorts of animals to take care of as well as my husband and son, Ber (short for Robert).

5. What is on your list of things to do?

"I have a lot of things to do, but I'm not sure at what point I'll get to do them. I want to travel more, go back to school, but I don't want to take away from my son.

I love going to school, I could be a full time student. We should never quit learning. (Angelia obtained her undergraduate degree from MTSU and Masters from TN Tech)

6. What would people be surprised to know about you?

"I come across as a very introverted person, sort of shy, but once it goes away I can be quite vocal. I don't have a nickname but I've been called a lot of things up here. Some are quite amusing."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"Every person should have a special cemetery lot in which to bury the faults of friends and loved ones!

-Submitted by Gail Lents, Executive Secretary, WTSP

"It is easier to raise strong children, than to fix broken adults".

-Submitted by Lisa Patton, Personnel Manager 2, Central Office